GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2579
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2010
DISTRIBUTION OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for distribution of essential commodities through fair price shops in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d): The State Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for distribution of commodities like pulses, mustard, methi seeds, spices, etc through fair price shops called Authorized Retail Depots (ARDs). As per the proposal, the procurement of these commodities can be entrusted to Supplyco on a no-loss no-profit basis. The commodities are proposed to be distributed to ration card holders irrespective of Above Poverty Line, Below Poverty Line categorization on monthly basis. The commodities that can be issued to a family will come to 6 Kg. approximately. Separate godowns will be hired by Supplyco. It is proposed that 75 percent of the total expenditure will be met by the State Government and the balance 25 percent by the Central Government. As per the proposed scheme, Sypplyco can make more effective market intervention and can have a key role in deciding the open market prices. The scheme is proposed to be implemented in Ernakulam District as a pilot project.

Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Government allocates wheat, rice, coarse grains and sugar to State/Union Territory (UT) Governments for distribution to ration cards holders through fair prices shops and Kerosene Oil through Kerosene dealers.

There is no scheme at present under which financial assistance can be given for Market Intervention Operation Scheme to the State Government of Kerala. A scheme for giving financial assistance to State/Union Territory (UT) Governments for non-formal Public Distribution System through State Civil Supplies Corporations and Consumers Marketing Federations has been formulated for approval. The scheme aims at strengthening the capacity of the State Agencies i.e. State Civil Supplies Corporations and Consumers Marketing Federations through augmentation of their financial resources with one time financial assistance from the Government of India and thereby enabling them to intervene effectively in the market by augmenting availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices in time of scarcity and/or spurt in prices.